

August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.
Our deacons and pastors hope you will feel at home here. No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name.*

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Gathering Music

Three Little Birds
Ed Burke, guitar and vocals

Bob Marley, 1977

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

People: We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

Leader: The rivers shall not overwhelm us, for God is our guide and our protector.

*People: Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the same
waters that wash and nourish us.*

Leader: Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

People: Ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

All: Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

Opening Prayer

Jessica Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*Holy One, in baptism you anointed us to live boldly in the reality of your coming
kingdom. We confess that we have not always fulfilled our calling. We have not used
our energy to serve our neighbors. We have walked away from oppression and
injustice. We have turned our backs on your beloved children who hunger and thirst in
a world of plenty. Forgive us, Lord. Make us courageous servants of your people,
bringing justice, peace, and wholeness in moments great and small. This we pray in
Jesus' name. Amen. (silence)*

Words of Assurance

***Passing of the Peace**

*In order for those tuning in from home to feel included,
please turn and greet the webcam as you share signs of peace with one another.*

Sacrament of Baptism

Jude Ryan Blaiotta, Nora Madelyn Blaiotta

Invitation, Welcome & Address

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate the gift of grace in
the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Questions of the Parents & Sponsors

Congregational Assent

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Baptism * Act of Baptism * Prayer for the Baptized

Introduction of the Baptized and Congratulations

***Hymn**

Lean on His Arms

(next page)

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer -- Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Time for Giving

Invitation

Offertory

Everybody's Talkin

Fred Neil, 1966

John O'Rourke, guitar and vocals

Our offering plate will be passed among us today.

You may give online at www.mcc-ucc/donate.

***Doxology and Presentation**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ, the Word in flesh, born low,

Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,

One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Scripture

Daniel 3:1-2, 6-30, pg 807

If you would like to read along, Bibles may be found underneath the pew in front of you.

Sermon

Rack, Shack & Benny

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH #393

***Benediction**

Parting Music

Fare Thee Well (Dink's Song)

American Folk Song

Lean on His Arms

Lewis Edgar Jones, 1903



1. Just lean up-on the arms of Je - sus, He'll help you a - long, help you a - long If
2. Just lean up-on the arms of Je - sus. He'll bright-en the way, bright-en the way, Just
3. Just lean up-on the arms of Je - sus, O bring ev - 'ry care, bring ev-'ry care! The
4. Just lean up-on the arms of Je - sus, Then leave all to Him, leave all to Him; His



you will trust His love un - fail - ing, He'll fill your heart with song.
fol - low glad - ly where He lead - eth, His gen - tle voice o - bey.
bur - den that has seemed so heav - y, Take to the Lord in prayer.
heart is full of love and mer - cy, His eyes are nev - er dim.



Refrain



Lean on His arms, trust-ing in His love; Lean on His arms, all His mer-cies prove;
Lean up-on His arms, ful-ly Lean up-on His arms, and



Lean on His arms, look-ing home a-bove, Just lean on the Sav-ior's arms!
Lean up-on His arms, ev-er



God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online! Worship is live streamed on church's You Tube Channel under CCLI Streaming License #2169137 on: <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>, as well as on our Facebook page "Monroe Congregational Church, UCC"

We are an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ, and we invite everyone to join in the full life and ministry of this church. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance and welcome to all persons, inclusive of every age, race, ability, economic and social status, nationality, faith background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital standing and family structure.

Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall.



If you'd like to **give online** during worship (or anytime), simply scan this QR code, which will take you to our VANCO electronic giving page. Thank you so much for your support.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Jessica Pfalzgraf **Usher:** Susie Cuseo **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
Trustee: Andrew Logan **Counter:** Tom Briggs
Coffee Host: Susie & Cliff Cuseo **Web Steward:** Scott Young



**The flowers this morning are given by Juliana Lavitola
in honor of Pastor Jenn**

Flowers for Worship: Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? You can do so, while also helping Monroe Congregational Church continue its tradition of fresh **flowers** on the communion table. You can sign-up in Wilton Hall or online! You may choose to arrange flowers from your garden, purchase an arrangement, or send a check (\$25) to Monroe Congregational Church (memo: "flowers" & the date) or use our website to pay online, and we will order for you. If you are supplying the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers> or [MCC-UCC.org](https://www.mcc-ucc.org)



to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is birth date)

Isabella Pinto ⁽¹¹⁾

Van Smith ⁽¹²⁾

Kelsey Kaminski ⁽¹⁴⁾

Wendy Colegrove ⁽¹²⁾

Heather Hisey ⁽¹²⁾

Mary Renz ⁽¹⁵⁾

Amy O'Rourke ⁽¹²⁾

Donna Konkol ⁽¹³⁾

Donald Whiteley ⁽¹⁶⁾

Danielle Rooney ⁽¹²⁾

Franklin Renz ⁽¹³⁾



Happy Wedding Anniversary to the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Joe & Betsy Gilberti ⁽⁰⁹⁾



Diane is scheduled for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer, beginning this Monday, July 1st. Diane will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive and respond to your voicemail and email messages. Happy Summer!

The **Monroe Summer Day Camp** will be renting our MCC campus again this year. The camp will provide added income for the church during the months of June, July and August. If you need to enter the building between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday please stop into the office and ask Diane to notify the camp director. **If the office is closed, please use the walkie-talkie provided to notify the camp director, Karen or Krissy, of your presence.** Thank you!

Fellowship



MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts: Are you interested in providing refreshments for our church members and friends following Sunday worship! All you need to do is arrive at the kitchen by 9:45 to get the coffee going (instructions found on kitchen wall). Providing baked goods or other snacks are always welcome (but not mandatory). Please sign up in Wilton Hall. (Although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). Thank you!



Young at Heart will meet Thurs., August 22 at noon.
SUGO Gastrobar, 105 Church Hill Road, Newtown
RSVP to Bill Brett (203)270-1053 or wrbmjb@sbcglobal.net



New summer dates! **3rd Thursday of the month.** We will continue to meet via zoom so that all members can join from wherever they may be. Questions can be sent to Paula via email pjsh55@gmail.com or home phone or 203-452-0850.

The book club selections for upcoming months:
August 22nd at 7pm - The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict
September 18th at 7 pm- Tom Lake by Ann Patchett
October 16th at 7pm - On Beauty by Zadie Smith



Do you know what a **Prayer Partner** is? It's the easiest thing to do. All that's required is filling out an information form that can be found in Wilton Hall at the end of August. In a few weeks you will receive someone else's information in the mail. Use that form to approach them during coffee hour and strike up a conversation, pass them the peace at service or send them a card or note in the mail signed

"Your Prayer Partner" using the church's address (34 Church St Monroe CT 06468) as the return. This is all done anonymously until next May 2025 when we hold the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon in Wilton Hall. It only takes a few seconds out of your busy schedule to think of your prayer partner and wish them the best for the day. Be in the comfort that someone else is praying for you. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.



Morning Circle will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11 at 11am in Wilton Hall. These ladies work hard on service projects like Church World Service, Heifer International and the Food Pantry. They provide bean soups, birthday bags, Trick-or-Treat bags and women's hygiene products for the Pantry. They also support the town's Giving Tree program with their generosity. Join them every second Wednesday of the month with the exception of January, February, July and August. Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns.



Did you miss the **Panera Bread** fundraiser in June? Well, you have another opportunity to support the refurbishing plan for Dineson Parlor which is used by many groups. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21 from 4-8PM. Use a promotion code for online orders any time of that day or at checkout at the Monroe location (205 Monroe Turnpike) when ordering at the counter or kiosk. With your purchase, 25% will go to help brighten up the parlor with new furniture that will stand up to lots of years of use by so many people. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-

268-0280 with any questions.

Christian Education



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **24/25 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School (Pre k - 6th) or being an adult advisor for our Jr PF youth group (ages 11-14).** You can speak to Jeanette with any questions or to express interest. Thank you! See you in the fall!



So you want to join the church?

Join us August 25th for a light lunch and informational meeting at 11 am in Dineson Parlor.

New Members will join during worship Sunday, Sep 8



HOMECOMING PICNIC

Come enjoy a nice meal, fun & games and reconnect with your church family!

12-4pm September 15, 2024 at Wolfe Park

SAVE THE DATE

Bring a salad or dessert to share. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided.



St George's
MEAL PACK

8/11
AFTER
WORSHIP

CHURCH
KITCHEN

Come help Outreach get meals ready
for our hungry Bridgeport neighbors! Cash
donations gratefully accepted at coffee hour.
All are welcome!



Heifer International supports families worldwide by using your spare change to make a change in their lives. Purchases of livestock or plants financially support families who turn around and then spreads the wealth, thereby, creating a more self-sustainable community. Find the donation bottle on the serving table at coffee hour. Your change will go a long way in helping those who have no means to make a better living. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **John Dominic** (Pfalzgraf's neighbor); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Elaine** (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Bruno Forte** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Bryan Garvin** (Mike Pfalzgraf's cousin); **Holly Hallgren; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning; Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia; Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Josh Post; P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith; Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes; Natica Williams** (Will Duchon's friend); **June Winger; Don Whiteley; Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Gaza**; the people of **Ukraine** and the **Middle East**; **LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; those who serve or live in **war** or **conflict zones** around the world; **first responders** and those who serve in **law enforcement**; those who suffer **discrimination**; those who struggle with **mental illness, addiction, divorce** or **separation**; **Caregivers**; the **homeless, homebound** and **refugees**.

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families:

Stateside: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter) **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Aug 11th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 Pack St. George's Supper

Mon. Aug 12th

Diane on Vacation - Office Closed

3:00 St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons (zoom)

Tue. Aug 13th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Pastor Jenn Vacation, Aug. 18 - 24

Week of Sun. Aug 18th

Guest Preacher, Jim Hisey

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Aug 19th

Diane on Vacation - Office Closed

6:00 pm Council Planning

Tue. Aug 20th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Aug 22nd

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

7:00 pm Book Club

Sat. Aug 24th

1:30 pm Jr PF Picnic (Morales' Home)

Week of Sun. Aug 25th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 New Member Informational
(Dineson)

Mon. Aug 26th

Diane on Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. Aug 27th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Pastor Jenn Vacation, Sept. 1 - 7

Week of Sun. Sept 1st

Guest Preacher, Carra McFadden

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

Mon. Sept 2th

Labor Day - Office Closed

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Sept 3rd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Week of Sun. Sept 8th

New Member Sunday

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Sept 9th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Sept 10th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 11th

11:00 am Morning Circle